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RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0171  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0237  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1752  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 2551  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 4434  
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SUBJECT: QUETTA - GIRLS, SCHOOL BURNED

Classified By: Classified by Kay Anske, Consul General, 1.4 b and d.

¶1. (U) An August 4 report in the Dawn newspaper pointed to &suspected Taliban militants<sup>8</sup> as responsible for the destruction of a private girls, school in a Quetta suburb. The article, accompanied by a photograph of a destroyed computer laboratory, said that attackers had used petroleum to ignite a fire that gutted four rooms of the school.

¶2. (C) However, sources told Post a different story. Faizullah Korajo, Superintendent of Police Administration for the Capital City Police, blamed relatives of children who were beaten by a teacher who works at the school. Another police source told PolOff that the damage was limited to only one room.

¶3. (C) Abdul Gaffar, a Central Committee Member of the Nationalist Party (NP), corroborated this version of events and added that the burning of the school was preceded by a letter from angry residents condemning the teacher,s actions. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the fire and all sources that Post spoke with about the incident denied evidence of Taliban involvement.

¶4. (C) Comment: While Taliban members are certainly present in Quetta, there have not been any reported burnings of girls, schools in the city or its environs. This particular incident, which appears to have resulted from a dispute with one of the school,s teachers, highlights the increasing media concern over Taliban and religious militant activities in the country.  
Anske